



West Virginia Department of Agriculture

1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-3550

Walt Helmick
Commissioner

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: **Field Veterinarian**

Salary: \$ 57,000.00

Headquarters: **Gus R. Douglass Agricultural Center
Charleston, WV**

**Send WVDA
Application
& Resume to:** Anne Oravec, Executive Assistant
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0170
Phone: 304-558-2221
E-mail: aoravec@wvda.us

Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Nature of Work: Serves as the Field Veterinarian for the Animal Health and the Meat and Poultry Inspection Divisions. Work responsibilities for this position are varied. All duties require a strong working knowledge of state and federal rules and regulations, and an ability to apply that knowledge to a myriad of circumstances involving livestock, both animal health and meat inspection related. Requires excellent communication skills, as effective communication with the public must occur at all times. Must have the ability to perform epidemiological analyses of livestock during an animal disease event, with an ability to both trace back and trace forward livestock to ascertain other herd involvement in the animal disease event. This position requires extensive in-state travel and occasionally out-of-state travel for training purposes. Potential out-of-state training may include the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician course in Plum Island, and/or the Program Disease Field Skills Course in Ames, IA. Duties of a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician include responding to reports of suspected Foreign Animal Disease in West Virginia from a private veterinarian and traveling to the premises to collect samples for laboratory testing. In an animal disease event, will be on-scene and will provide assistance under the direction of the State Veterinarian with biosecurity, containment, depopulation, removal/composting, cleaning and disinfection, and area surveillance. Administrative responsibilities includes preparing grant applications, developing budgets, compiling data analysis and writing narratives to describe the

grant accomplishments/results to meet reporting requirements related to various grants. Training will be provided related to meat inspection assignments.

This position, located in Charleston, WV will mainly be responsible for serving the southern region of WV. However, there may be times when a need arises to assist other field veterinarians in the state.

Examples of Work:

- ♦ Answers questions from the public regarding a myriad of circumstances involving animal health and the state's livestock population.
- ♦ Handles paperwork and provides documentation of animals pertaining to the state's Dangerous Wild Animal law.
- ♦ Performs epidemiological analyses regarding livestock and animal disease.
- ♦ Completes computer reports related to meat and poultry inspection assignments.
- ♦ Supervises the Animal Disease Traceability Coordinator, and oversees the Animal Disease Traceability program within the state
- ♦ Provides assistance in writing the federal Animal Disease Traceability Cooperative Agreement.
- ♦ Responsible for administrative activities related to the Divisions' grants including applications, budgets and preparing all interim and final reports as required by each grant.
- ♦ Works with Homeland Security personnel in the event of disasters involving livestock.
- ♦ Participates in the Southern Agriculture and Animal Disaster Response Alliance working group.
- ♦ Trains to become a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician and subsequent related tasks.
- ♦ Potentially captures, contains and/or transports of dangerous wild animals as mandated by the state's Dangerous Wild Animal law
- ♦ Trains at the Program Disease Field Skills Course, after which performs Comparative Cervical Testing for suspect bovine tuberculosis
- ♦ Ensure that Animal Health Technicians tag at weekly livestock markets.
- ♦ Ensures that livestock checks are conducted at fairs and festivals for signs of infectious and communicable disease.
- ♦ Performs necropsies on farm.
- ♦ Performs final dispositions on suspect animals and humane handling verification at licensed slaughter facilities.
- ♦ Collects tissues for laboratory culture work, histopathology and other relevant laboratory procedures.
- ♦ Writes Certificates of Veterinary Inspection at statewide purebred consignment sales.
- ♦ Ensures that horses are checked at equine events.
- ♦ Trains meat inspectors in regards to normal anatomy and pathological conditions.
- ♦ Provides assistance in an animal disease event under the direction of the State Veterinarian.
- ♦ Issues quarantines.
- ♦ Performs Honor Flock/Honor Herd inspections.
- ♦ Interacts with the public and answers questions from livestock producers and private veterinarians.
- ♦ Presents information at various functions including producer meetings, university settings, Extension meetings, etc.

- ♦ Trains private licensed, accredited veterinarians on correct procedure for the completion of Certificates of Veterinary Inspection.
- ♦ Provides training for sample collection techniques for AHTs.
- ♦ Other duties as assigned.

Working Conditions: Normal office environment: standing, sitting, walking, lifting, operating a computer and other office equipment, performing calculations, and communicating orally and in writing. Extensive in-state state travel required with occasional out-of-state travel. Position also includes functioning in proximity of working machinery, livestock, dangerous wild animals, field necropsy procedures utilizing sharp objects, outside work, and exposure to inclement weather. Must be able to lift and/or carry more than 50 lbs.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- ♦ Ability to create and maintain effective and professional relations for the Department.
- ♦ Ability to record data, make observations, and provide professional suggestions to veterinarians and producers.
- ♦ Ability to conduct necropsies and collect tissue samples.
- ♦ Ability to establish and enforce quarantines.
- ♦ Ability to respond to animal disease events.
- ♦ Ability to supervise employees.
- ♦ Ability to perform epidemiological investigations regarding livestock and animal disease.
- ♦ Ability to establish and maintain an effective working relationship with other government officials, employees, and the public.
- ♦ Knowledge of federal and state laws, rules and regulations as they might apply to, or affect, agriculture and associated funding.
- ♦ Knowledge of veterinary medicine pertaining to both large and small animals, as well as poultry and aquaculture.
- ♦ Knowledge of the proper disposal of infectious waste and knowledge of swine garbage feeding law.
- ♦ Knowledge of computers and software, including Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and InfoPath.
- ♦ Willingness to undergo any necessary training to become proficient in areas associated with other animal health problems.
- ♦ Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.
- ♦ Possess strong organizational skills.
- ♦ Willingness to work in a collaborative team environment.

Minimum Qualifications:

Training: Graduation from an accredited college of veterinary medicine with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Licensed by the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine to practice veterinary medicine in West Virginia. Accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services in West Virginia

Experience: Five years of professional experience as a veterinarian. Working with food producing animals, horses, and poultry is preferred.

Additional Requirements:

Valid driver's license required.

General knowledge of rules, regulations, policies and objectives of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Willingness to travel in West Virginia, with occasional out-of-state travel.

Must maintain a positive image of the Commissioner, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and the State of West Virginia.

Offer of employment is contingent upon a negative drug screen and background check.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INTERVIEW PLEASE PROVIDE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION

- **Copy of Veterinary License**
- **Copy of Accreditation by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services in West Virginia**

To apply please complete an application for employment which can be found at <http://www.agriculture.wv.gov>